this House should know that the Government in power from January-December went to the IMF twice and they took large amounts of money from the IMF. In spite of that, the things they have done weakened our credit-worthiness abroad. Now, it is our responsibility.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*] Election

Countermanding of Elections due to certain Irregularities

*4. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The number of Lok Sabha constituencies where elections were countermanded due to irregularities committed in the elections; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent such occurrences in future?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY): (a) Five.

(b) Election Commission takes all possible steps to prevent electoral malpractices and irregularities. It is, however, for the concerned State Government to make arrangement for law and order and to ensure that incidents of booth capturing etc., do not take place. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1990 introduced in Rajya Sabha in May, 1990 by the previous government seeks to make the offence of booth capturing a cognizable one and to enhance the punishment for the offence where such offence is committed by a person in the service of Government. The Bill also provides for strengthening of section 58A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 so that Election Commission could take a decision to countermand the poll on a Report from the Returning Officer or otherwise. However, in view of the incidents in the last General Elections, the Government, being committed to bringing in electoral reforms, feels that the matter requires further indepth study before any concrete steps are proposed.

[*English*] 32 Textile

Reduction in prices of Cotton Sarees and Dhotis

*5. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have fixed any time limit for reducing the prices of cotton sarees and dhotis of 40s count or below to those obtaining in July 1990;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c) In an economy like ours, the price levels are determined by a number of factors. The price level of any single commodity cannot be viewed in isolation. Government are constantly reviewing the price levels of sarees and dhotis of 40s counts and below. Government will take appropriate measures in this regard keeping in view the overall economic policies of the Government and also the critical economic situation the country is facing

32 Indian Econ

Economic Situation

*6. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian economy has suffered badly during the last one and a half years;